

**TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE**



FISCAL NOTE

SB 739 - HB 670

March 15, 2013

SUMMARY OF BILL: Requires the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) to establish and implement the Office of Noncustodial Parent Advocacy pilot project. The pilot project must be implemented in all juvenile courts and all courts exercising juvenile court jurisdiction in at least one county within each of the state's three grand divisions. The Office of Noncustodial Parent Advocacy will provide assistance to unwed noncustodial parents in obtaining visitation rights to their children. The AOC will only develop and implement the pilot project if sufficient nonstate funding is provided by at least one local government in each grand division for the duration of the pilot project. Local government commitment will be demonstrated through passage of a resolution or ordinance detailing the funding and funding sources for the project. The AOC is required to promulgate rules to implement the pilot project. The AOC is required to report its findings concerning the efficiency and effectiveness of the pilot project February 15, 2014, and on or before February 15 of each successive year thereafter.

The pilot project shall remain in effect until July 1, 2015.

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:

**Increased Local Expenditures – Exceeds \$196,800/FY13-14/Permissive
Exceeds \$353,600/FY14-15/Permissive**

Assumptions:

- The AOC will not develop or implement the Office of Noncustodial Parent Advocacy pilot project (Pilot Project) until at least one county in each of the state's three grand divisions commits to funding the Pilot Project through passage of an ordinance or resolution.
- The Pilot Project will remain in effect until July 1, 2015.
- Local government funding of the Pilot Project must come from nonstate funding sources.
- The assistance provided through the Pilot Project will require the rendering of legal advice to unwed, non-custodial parents. At least one attorney will be required in each county participating in the Pilot Project.
- According to the AOC, the one-time cost of providing one attorney in one county in each grand division for the Pilot Project will be at least \$10,500 (3 attorneys x \$3,500 office landscaping, computer, telephone, office supplies).

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- According to the AOC, the recurring cost of providing one attorney in one county in each grand division for the Pilot Project will be at least \$301,551 [3 attorneys x (\$40,440 salary + \$12,077 benefits + \$48,000 rent and utilities for office space)].
- According to the AOC, the Pilot Project will require one project manager to implement, monitor, and gather statistical data resulting in a one-time cost of \$3,500 and a recurring cost of \$52,011 (\$40,000 salary + \$12,011 benefits)
- According to the AOC, the Pilot Project will require a language consultant to assist in establishing forms for pro se litigants at a cost of approximately \$1,500 per form. It is estimated that at least four forms will be required for a total cost of at least \$6,000 (4 x \$1,500).
- According to the AOC, the costs of promulgating rules for the pilot project can be accommodated within existing resources without an increased appropriation or reduced reversion.
- The total estimated one-time cost for development and implementation of the Pilot Project in three counties is at least \$20,000 (\$10,500 + \$3,500 + \$6,000).
- The total estimated recurring cost for development and implementation of the Pilot Project in three counties is at least \$353,562 (\$301,551 + \$52,011).
- The pilot project will be implemented for 1.5 years due to the time required for commitment of funding and development of the Pilot Project.
- The total estimated cost for development and implementation of the Pilot Project in three counties in FY13-14 will be at least \$196,781 [(\$353,562/2) + \$20,000].
- The total estimated cost for development and implementation of the Pilot Project in three counties in FY14-15 will be at least \$353,562.

CERTIFICATION:

The information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.



Lucian D. Geise, Executive Director

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